

**WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2015**

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, March 19, at 5:32 p.m. by Forrest Ridgway.

<b>Commission</b>	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Mike Chambers	Joe Hrdlicka
<b>Present</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Arrived at 6:02pm</b>	<b>X</b>

<b>Staff</b>	Susan Mathews <i>Parks &amp; Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks &amp; Recreation</i>
<b>Present</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Schebel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No items.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2015 Meeting**

Hrdlicka moved to approve the minutes as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 4. Old Business**

No items.

**New Business:**

**On Item 5A. Presentations – Annual Reports**

**1. Cricket League of Iowa**

Sukhen Chatterjee, 7740 Ashley Pl., Johnston

Chatterjee gave a brief background of the Heartland Cricket League. He noted that the 2015 schedule is still being determined but will provide it to Parks & Recreation staff when available. Chatterjee expressed thanks for use of the facility.

**2. Des Moines Rugby Foundation**

Jody Ricci, 1441 47<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines

Ricci gave a short history of the Foundation. He expressed appreciation for the City's communication in the process of paving 39<sup>th</sup> street, they are looking forward to much less dust this season. Scott noted that the City Council approved funding to be available July 1 to due site improvements to the 39<sup>th</sup> Street Park site. The goal is to grade the site and put in a parking lot and open playfield as well as community gardens. Ricci asked about the size of the proposed field. Ortgies noted that staff have drafted some preliminary plans that can be shared with Rugby.

**3. International Soccer League of Iowa**

No representative present.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Recommendation to City Council – Approval of Park Use Agreements:

1. Cricket League of Iowa  
Schebel moved to approve the recommendation to City Council to approve the agreement.  
Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.
2. Des Moines Rugby Foundation  
Hrdlicka moved to approve the recommendation to City Council to approve the agreement.  
Schebel seconded. Motion carried.
3. International Soccer League of Iowa  
Tabled until the April meeting.

On Item 5C. Presentations

1. Proposal to install an outdoor warm weather hockey facility at Raccoon River Park  
Patrik Levesque shared that he is from Quebec originally and that he is currently running Dek Hockey programs in the Quad Cities. He gave information about his professional hockey background and the success of the Quad Cities program. Ridgway asked about how he would run the program. Levesque responded that he would move to Des Moines to get this program going. Scott noted that hockey is on the Raccoon River Park Master Plan but that there would be a site plan and Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Councilman Trimble expressed enthusiasm for the idea but asked about the contingency plan if Dek Hockey didn't work out in West Des Moines. Scott responded that the courts would be configured in a way that they could be repainted and used as basketball courts.  
Schebel moved to refer the proposal to the Facilities Committee. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.
2. Proposal to allow a riverboat to operate on Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park  
Michael LaValle, 435 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
LaValle stated that the Riverboat would be an engaging addition to the park amenities and would like to move it from Des Moines due to the inconsistency of water levels at the current location. Ridgway inquired about costs to the City, such as paving, infrastructure, and moving the boat as well as costs if the venture doesn't work out. LaValle stated that it is not a money-making enterprise; it is his passion to give back to the community. He added that through a bond, or similar he could ensure that the City wouldn't be held financially responsible. LeValle stated he would like water, electricity and access to a dock. Scott stated that staff will research the costs and when the Board is ready to consider a recommendation they will have a better estimate. Councilman Trimble asked about financial sustainability. Chambers asked if it would be structured like a lease agreement. Scott added that would be a part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The financial aspects and the approval process were discussed.  
  
Chambers moved to refer the proposal to the Facilities Committee. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.
3. Proposal to install a cellphone monopole at the site at E.P. True Parkway and 39<sup>th</sup> Street  
Joe Markus, Black & Veatch, representing SVBA Communications and Verizon.  
Markus stated that due to increased voice traffic in the area a new tower is needed, the closest non-residential area is the park site near EP True Parkway and 39<sup>th</sup> Street. Markus suggested that

the north border of the site would be the ideal location for the 50'x50' fenced area to house the equipment and the pole, which would be about 130' tall. Hrdlicka noted that due to the other utilities on the site it seems like a good place. Ridgway asked about the income generated by renting the space. Markus responded around \$12,000/year but it would be negotiated in the lease process. The Board expressed their consent with Markus continuing with proposal process. Scott suggested that Markus setup a meeting to go to the site with staff to view the location possibilities. Ortgies inquired if the engineering firm would handle clearing the project with MidAmerican. Markus responded that they would handle that, it would not be the City's responsibility.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies reported Woodland Hills Park and Fairmeadows Park Playground equipment projects are beginning. She added that the concrete trail renovation project has also been awarded and will begin soon. Ortgies shared that MidAmerican is going to be doing some work through Southwoods and Raccoon River Parks. There will be some impact on the trail at Raccoon River Park and will require a temporary closure of the gravel portion. Ortgies announced that invitations will be forthcoming for the City's Arbor Day Celebration which will feature the planting of a Burr Oak Tree at the Jordan House in tribute to James Jordan.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen noted that the summer brochure is out and summer hiring is underway. He shared that as a part of the Capital Crossroads marketing effort the Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau has launched a new "active" campaign and metro trails will be a component of that effort.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott shared that the Public Arts plan has been adopted by the Public Arts Advisory Commission. The Commission prioritized six projects and picked their first project to be the Public Art at the major trail entrances in West Des Moines. He added that they will choose a selection committee at their next meeting. Scott noted that regardless of the riverboat outcome staff likes the idea of pursuing paddleboat and water activity rentals at Raccoon River Park as an alternative method to get people out onto the water as noted on the master plan.

On Item 7. Other Matters

No items.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 8A. City Council Communications

February 23, 2015: Motion – Request for Technical Assistance – Trust for Public Land

February 23, 2015: Amendment to City Code – Title 7 (Public Ways and Property), Chapter 10 (Trees and Shrubs) – Amend Ordinance to Include Changes Needed Due to Emerald Ash Borer Management – City Initiated. 1) Ordinance Approval of Second, Third Readings and Final Adoption

February 23, 2015: Resolution – Order Construction and Notice of Public Hearing on Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, Estimate of Cost, and Direct Advertisement of Bids – 2015 Concrete Trail Renovation Project

March 9, 2015: Resolution – Approval of Recommended Name – Hidden Point Park

March 9, 2014: Public Hearing – 2015 Concrete Trail Renovation: 1) Resolution – Approval of Plans and Specifications; 2) Motion – Receive and File Report of Bids; 3) Resolution – Approve Contract

Hrdlicka moved to adjourn. Chambers seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Mathews  
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

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Heather Schebel  
Advisory Board Secretary